

I am against any government mandate to require copy restrictions in consumer electronics devices that receive broadcast digital television signals. I am also against such restrictions with regard to receiving and recording television signals via cable and satellite.

These restrictions are an attempt by media corporations to eliminate the usual and customary home recording rights of consumers. The U.S. Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, contain clauses upholding fair-use home recording. This is the intent of Congress, and the will of the people. The average consumer does not follow policy discussions in the FCC, and will not see the results until copy-protected products hit the stores and they see their rights taken away. When that happens, the consumers will be outraged, and will reject HDTV. On my part, if I cannot record at will, I will just watch standard definition video, and will NEVER watch high-definition.

The entire question of internet distribution of broadcast television programs is ridiculous. These shows are BROADCAST to everyone nationwide. There is no such thing as "improper distribution" of programs that are by their very nature distributed to everyone. Furthermore, no one will download very large digital files (in high definition) over the internet, when they can simply record it in their own homes when it is broadcast to them. That is not going to happen.

This is an excuse to give them the power to prevent any recording. If they broadcast a show over the public airwaves that were given FREE to them, they have no right to restrict home-use copying.

The question of whether or not people will distribute STANDARD DEFINITION (ANALOG) video over the internet is irrelevant to the question of recording of high-definition digital. The broadcast flag would not prevent analog copying at standard definition.

The "threat" that media companies will boycott high-definition is a bluff. Let the free marketplace decide. The government (FCC) is answerable to the people; the media corporations do not get to use the government to enforce their wishes.

Keep in mind that the consumers are the ones that pay for the TV and receiver equipment. IF we pay for it, we should control it, not the media corporations.

We need regulations that explicitly states that the consumer has an absolute right to:

- make permanent recordings of a digital tv broadcast at its full resolution
- view the signal on an analog output sent to a television without having the picture degraded or downconverted
- make digital copies of these recordings for backup purposes, or to view them on different media or devices in our own home, without restriction.

And manufacturers need to be assured that they can create products for the consumer to make fair-use recordings in their homes without fear of being sued.

Television signals must be required by the FCC to conform to a few standardized formats, without proprietary encryption schemes. User's should be able to by tuners from any manufacturer, and should be able to view broadcast or basic-tier cable without encryption. New innovative products can then be created to receive these signals, without forcing the manufacturer to sign restrictive licensing agreements. Consumers should be able to permanently record ALL signals being transmitted into the home. Only pre-recorded media should have copy protection measures.